

House File 234 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 234
BY COMMITTEE ON HUMAN
RESOURCES

(SUCCESSOR TO HF 50)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to reports filed with the court by mental
2 health advocates for persons with mental health disorders.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 229.19, subsection 1, paragraph d,
2 subparagraph (6), Code 2017, is amended to read as follows:

3 (6) To file with the court ~~quarterly reports, and additional~~
4 ~~reports as the advocate feels necessary or as required by the~~
5 ~~court, in a form prescribed by the court. The reports shall~~
6 ~~state what actions the advocate has taken with respect to each~~
7 ~~patient and the amount of time spent.~~

8 EXPLANATION

9 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
10 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

11 Under current law, a mental health advocate is required to
12 file quarterly reports with the court and additional reports as
13 the advocate feels necessary in a form prescribed by the court.
14 A mental health advocate is appointed by the county board of
15 supervisors in each county to represent the interests of a
16 patient involuntarily hospitalized under Code chapter 229.

17 This bill amends current law to require a mental health
18 advocate to file reports only when the advocate feels a report
19 is necessary or a report is required by the court, and does not
20 require the court to prescribe a form for such reports.

21 The bill also strikes the requirement that the advocate's
22 report shall state what actions the advocate has taken with
23 respect to each patient and the amount of time the advocate
24 spent on those actions.